



42nd Infantry Division - Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 News

DISPATCH

Volume 30

September 18, 2005

American, Iraqi Soldiers Partner to Prevent Crime, Terrorism

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Matthew Acosta,
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, Balad, Iraq – As the Iraqi army and police forces continue to take charge, constant Coalition Forces patrols are still crucial in protecting the development of Iraq and its security forces.

These patrols show a presence of military power and law enforcement for Coalition Forces as well as the Iraqi police.

"Our patrols are conducted with the Iraqi police and army to show the Iraqis they area capable of enforcing the same law and order we enforce," said Cpl. Robert Miller, infantryman, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty. "When we go out with them and let them take charge, it shows the people that we respect them as a security force, and in return, the people respect them more."

One step in handing control of the roads to the Iraqi police is to build police checkpoints at strategic or problematic areas where there may be high insurgent activity.

Miller said before, they couldn't tell the police apart from the everyday citizens because they had no uniforms, but now they have uniforms, and are building police checkpoint facilities that have enough rooms for them to work in as well as sleeping quarters.

Months of training, supervision and support shaped the police force into a more professional security element.

"Now these guys have so much pride in themselves and what they're doing here," said Sgt. Timothy Gardner, infantryman, 5-7. "You can totally see the difference in their performance from several months ago."

Gardner said the police take their jobs seriously, especially since they got uniforms and actual checkpoints instead of just a shack on the side of the road.

"It gives them motivation and purpose," he said.

Although many of the policemen are taking law enforcement more seriously, there are still some who may "look the other way" when a small crime is being committed, said Petery.

"People are selling propane on the side of the road, maybe one or two containers to survive, but the fact of the matter is that selling fuel outside a

police vehicles and build multiple checkpoints."

According to Petery, insurgents will damage the pipeline, causing delays in Iraq's economic development. When the fuel leaks out other Iraqis collect it and use it or try to sell it.

"We can't look the other way on this, it's a growing problem," Petery said. "These people need to be arrested and jailed for their crimes. Just because they aren't the ones who damage



Army Pfc. Kenith Kinna, infantryman, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Task Force Liberty, watches the people of Balad while manning his M-240B machinegun, during a patrol of the city center.

gas station is illegal," said Lt. Col. Jody Petery, commander, 5-7. "If we give the appearance that small crimes are okay, then we will never take complete control of the crime situation."

Several people were caught stealing fuel from a broken pipeline earlier this month, said Petery.

"What we need to do is let these officers know the Iraqi government is losing four million dollars every day because of fuel theft and illegal sales, with this money we could easily buy 20 or 30 new

the pipeline, they are still stealing from the government and it needs to stop.

"If the police let them get away with it, they should be the ones arrested because they are allowing this by not doing something to stop it," Petery added. "We need to be stern with this."

Miller said when the Iraqi policemen are confronted with something they have never encountered before, or something where they

(continued on page 2)

Mosque Missions Track Mixed Messages

Story and photos by Sgt. Matthew Acosta,
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, Balad, Iraq – An integral part of the new Iraqi security forces' success lies in the very people they have vowed to protect.

Without the support of those who live in Iraq, the effort to rebuild this country could be severely hindered; hence the importance of assessing the opinion of those who may have influence over the population.

One way to determine the opinion of those with this power is to listen to and translate mosque

"It's hard to say what was being said but it makes me think they were preaching anti-Coalition messages because when they see us coming, they stop the message," Bush said.

Due to this, the Coalition Forces have adapted their tactics to counter these alleged actions of secrecy.

"We decided to start approaching the mosques unseen when possible," Bush said. "We determine what mosque we are going to record, then see what cover is available around the area. On some missions, we get within several meters of it using the trees or orchids for cover."

On one mission, Soldiers crept through orchids and waited for the broadcast to begin.

"We got close to the speaker, which was mounted on the roof of the mosque; close enough to hear the message loud and clear," Bush said. "We also had an interpreter to let us know if there was an anti-Coalition message being played."

Bush said that after the message is recorded, it is turned over to the interpreters and translated into English, then used



Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Bush, platoon sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team records a mosque message from the concealment of trees next to a mosque in Balad, while "Jack" translates the message and writes its basic ideas.

messages broadcast to the townspeople.

"We conduct what we call mosque missions where we go out and record the messages that are preached in town," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Bush, platoon sergeant, Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Task Force Liberty. "Listening to the messages is a good way to see how the religious leaders perceive us and our efforts."

Bush said that, although many of the messages broadcast are innocent in nature – preaching "good things," there have been reports of

mosques' preaching anti-Coalition propaganda.

"It annoys [the Iraqi army and policemen] because their actions are being undermined by these few people who are trying to recruit [insurgents] or upset their progress," said Pfc. Aaron Schindewolf, medic, Co. B, 5-7.

Sometimes, the 5-7 Soldiers have driven right up to the mosque during the broadcast over the loudspeaker and recorded the message from within its secure perimeter. Bush said however, there have been times that as they pulled up, the broadcast stopped in the middle of the message.

"It's a good gauge in seeing what kind of positive support or negative influence is being preached. It gives us a heads up on what to expect from that area."

for intelligence purposes.

Although there may be anti-Coalition messages preached, there may also be pro-Coalition messages as well.

"Terrorists come from other countries to destroy this country," said "Jack," who is working as an interpreter with Coalition Forces, in reference to a translated mosque message.

"So we must stay together to build a safe country, so everybody can live in peace," he added.

"They are not all bad messages,"

said Jack. Sometimes mosques preach good messages for the Soldiers. That is why we have to go out and make sure they aren't preaching against our progress."

Soldiers go out on mosque missions weekly covering different mosques every time, Schindewolf said.

"Since we're not allowed to enter the mosques, all we can do is record the messages, but it's a good gauge in seeing what kind of positive support or negative influence is being preached," Bush said. "It gives us a heads up on what to expect from that area."

Klaw Qut Village Gets Clean Water Supply

by 116th BCT
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq – The people of Klaw Qut, Iraq, celebrated the completion of a new well and water storage system, a project made possible through the cooperation of the local government and Coalition Forces.

Klaw Qut is an interior village of 60 families that relied entirely on a dirty, slow moving stream for water. The Qarah Anjir local government worked with Coalition Forces leaders to provide a well, pump house, storage tank, generator and rudimentary network using the Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

"Clean drinking water is a concern for all Iraqi's as the government works toward upgrading existing facilities and building new ones," said Capt. Lane Packwood, a company commander with the 116th Brigade Combat Team's (BCT) Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery. "This project provides an immense improvement in the village's quality of life."



The Qarah Anjir government and coalition leaders celebrated the completion of this pump house, which will provide clean water to about 60 families in Klaw Qut.

Troops Patrol the Streets

(continued from page 1)

don't know how to react, they quickly adapt to the situation with a little help from the Coalition Forces.

"If they don't understand something, or know what to do, we show them how to handle a situation, and they pick it up real fast," said Miller.

"There's no doubt in my mind these guys will be fine when we finally turn (Balad) over to them entirely," Miller said. "They learn more everyday and are more proficient at what they are doing, it's just a matter of time before we finally step back and leave their city in their hands."



Army Cpl. Alexis Beatles, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Task Force Liberty, guards the commander of the cavalry unit, Lt. Col. Jody Petery, while he talks with a sheik from Balad about the police security forces and new police check point projects around the city.